

throughout the United States. A focal point in Dr. Gardere's career has been the founding of the Rainbow Psychological Services 5 years ago. This culturally sensitive psychological health care program provides services for children, adults, and families in Brooklyn and the tristate area.

As a reorganized psychological expert on police brutality issues and posttraumatic stress disorder, Dr. Gardere has provided key evaluations and structural recommendations for a major lawsuit against the New Jersey State Department of Corrections. In addition, over the past few years, Dr. Gardere has taken his practice to the air waves, becoming a highly-sought-after media psychologist appearing on every major talk and news show on radio and television. Dr. Gardere is presently negotiating the publication of his book, "How to Raise Your Child in an Urban Jungle" with the St. Martens Press.

Despite his grueling schedule, Dr. Gardere has maintained his involvement in local and humanitarian issues for children and families. His efforts, to name a few, include: hosting gala benefits for nonprofit groups in his home and private clubs; providing mental health consultations for the treatment of Haitian minors in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and consulting with "KISS"—WRKS radio—initiatives on the mental health of African-Americans program.

Complementing his life's work, Dr. Gardere, a married father with two children ages 2 and 3, is a musician, singer, pianist, alto-sax player who has performed with Mickey Bass, John Hicks, Louis Haynes, and Hilton Ruiz. Dr. Jeffrey Gardere has won the respect of his peers and serves as an example of the best in our community. I am pleased to introduce him to my House colleagues.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 31, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

MAKING CONGRESS WORK BETTER

Early last year at the beginning of the 104th Congress, the House passed some significant reforms of the way it does business, some of which were useful and others of which were not. While additional reforms and rules changes should be considered now, I believe there are serious overriding problems in the House that affect its effectiveness, accountability, and public respect.

RECENT REFORMS

Several of the reforms passed last year to make Congress more open and accountable were based on the work of the bipartisan Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, which I cochaired. Significant reforms included streamlining the committee system, cutting staff, and opening up Congress to more public scrutiny.

One of the most significant reforms was congressional compliance, which requires Congress to live under the same laws we pass for everyone else, including workplace safety and labor laws. It simply makes no sense for Congress to pass a law and then exempt itself. In the 103rd Congress we passed congressional compliance for the House, and early in

the 104th that was extended by statute to the entire legislative branch. I am concerned about some of the delays this session in bringing Congress into full compliance, but overall this has been a worthwhile reform.

ADDITIONAL REFORMS

Certainly additional reforms are needed to address specific problems. I was particularly disappointed that the House leadership decided not to accept our Joint Committee recommendation to have private citizens help us investigate ethics complaints against Members of Congress. The difficulties the Ethics Committee has had this session show that the House simply cannot police itself without outside help, as charges against Speaker Gingrich and others keep being put off and are never resolved one way or the other. The addition of ordinary citizens to the process would force action on cases that could be held up indefinitely under the current system. A variety of professions—from lawyers to clergy—have moved away from self-regulation to involve outsiders; Congress should too.

We also need to better publicize special interest tax breaks hidden away in revenue bills; reduce our reliance on huge omnibus bills that allow Members only one up or down vote on a package containing hundreds of provisions; make sure House reform is taken up on a much more regular, ongoing basis; and expand the compressed congressional schedule which limits the time available for serious deliberation.

NEED FOR MORE BASIC CHANGES

But much more than this is needed. We need a serious reassessment of what has happened during this Congress.

One of the key tests of reform is whether it makes Congress a more effective institution—improving our ability to deliberate and pass legislation addressing our nation's challenges. On that test, the reforms have not worked particularly well.

The test is not whether we get something through the House, but whether we pass something that can also get through the Senate and be signed into law. Most Congress-watchers would say that the legislative accomplishments of the 104th Congress have been fairly meager, as Congress has failed to pass a balanced budget, campaign finance reform, Medicare reform, and many other items considered top priorities early on. This dissatisfaction with the accomplishments of the 104th is shared by the public. Despite reform, public confidence in Congress remains low.

OVERRIDING FACTORS

So what has happened? My basic view is that although we passed some significant reforms, they were simply overwhelmed by two other factors: the centralization of power by Speaker Gingrich and the increased partisanship of the 104th Congress.

CENTRALIZATION OF POWER BY SPEAKER

All of us who have been active in reform over the years have talked about the need to centralize more power in the office of the Speaker. But I believe this has been carried too far this Congress, with too many key policy decisions taken away from the committees and instead made behind closed doors by the leadership or by task forces set up by the leadership. For example, the bill to sharply cut back Medicare was basically written in the Speaker's office and proposed amendments to the Constitution have suddenly appeared on the House floor without any committee consideration.

This approach to the legislative process reduces accountability. It is largely a closed process. Most Members, and certainly most Americans, have no way of learning which Members are involved, which positions are

being considered, and which special interests are consulted or locked out. Many Members with significant expertise are simply shut out of the critical formative stages of a bill. Last year's reforms to open up committee deliberations make little difference if an important bill simply bypasses the committee altogether or is largely handled in secret by a leadership task force.

EXCESSIVE PARTISANSHIP

Secondly, I believe many of last year's reforms have been overwhelmed by the excessive partisanship of the 104th. Certainly some partisanship can be expected in the House, but in this Congress it has seemed excessive. As one observer put it, "Healthy competition between cohesive parties has degenerated into bombastic, mean-spirited, and often ugly confrontation." When the House becomes too negative, too bitter, too contentious—and there is plenty of blame to go around on both sides of the aisle—that clearly affects our ability to come together to pass legislation for the good of the country. Indeed it can be a much greater roadblock to effective governance than many of the procedures that were reformed early this Congress.

I believe that reducing the excessive partisanship of the House should be our number one priority. By every indication, whichever party controls the House next session will do so by a slim margin; we must learn to work together in a more bipartisan way if we want to get important legislation passed for the good of the country. That is something I will certainly work to bring about.

Fortunately Congress has a self-correcting mechanism for excessive partisanship. In recent weeks as Members have gone home to their districts and have heard from their constituents that they just don't like what they are seeing, the partisan tensions in Congress have been reduced. It is too early to see if this will continue, but it has been a positive and welcome development.

BIG BROTHER IN ATLANTA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, two Taiwanese students were arrested at the Olympic Games in Atlanta for waving the flag of the Republic of China on Taiwan during a ping-pong match.

Mr. Speaker, this defies both the American and the Olympic spirit, and the authorities who made the arrest ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Apparently, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, who happens to be chairman of the International Table Tennis Association, called the police and asked that the students be arrested.

Teaming up with this privileged member of the elite from a Communist country in order to snuff out the free speech of two individuals right here in America is a disgusting reminder of how far the so-called civilized world will go in order to appease the Communist bullies in Beijing.

What an ugly stain on the Olympics, Mr. Speaker.